Aid to Tripura

709. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount earmarked for Tripura for allotment during the Tenth Five Year Plan for both plan and non-plan expenditure;

(b) the amount released for Tripura upto 31st March, 2004;

(c) the status of the Tripura State's share of the Centre taxes upto 31st March, 2004; and

(d) by when the backlog in allotment as well as release of funds will be made clear?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No plan or non-plan assistance, except for grants under Finance Commissions' recommendations, are earmarked for any State. Grants recommended by Eleventh Finance Commission for Tripura was Rs. 2542.83 crores. Projected Tenth plan outlay of Tripura is Rs. 4500 crores and expected Central Assistance is Rs. 4008 crores.

(b) Finance Commission's grants of Rs. 1989 crores have been released to Tripura upto 30.06.2004. Central Assistance released to Tripura of Tenth Plan, *i.e.,* for first two years (2002-03 & 2003-04) upto 31st March, 2004 is Rs. 1351.12 crores.

(c) Central Taxes and Duties released to Tripura during first four years of XI Finance Commission is Rs. 1040.18 crores.

(d) There is n*o* backlog in release of grants except under Fiscal Reform Facility and upgradation grants. Incentive under Fiscal Reform Facility depends upon achievement by the status of necessary improvement in revenue deficit to revenue receipt ratio and release of upgradation grants on utilization of grants released earlier.

GDP growth rate

710. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country recorded 8.2 per cent growth in the year ending on 31 st March, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the performance of the various sectors which contributed to this impressive growth rate; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to keep the growth momentum in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the revised estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the overall growth of GDP at factor cost at constant prices for 20C3-04 is 8.2. per cent. The growth rates of various sectors are given in the following table.

Sector	2003-04 (Revised Estimates) (Per cent growth over 2002-03)
Agriculture & allied	9.1
Industry	6.7
Mining & quarrying	4.4
Manufacturing	7.3
Electricity, gas & water supply	5.5
Construction	6.2
Services	8.7
Trade, hotels, transport & communications	11.2
Financial services	6.8
Community, soda! & personal services	6.0
Total GDP at factor cost	8.2

(d) Ensuring a sustained growth of 7 to 8 per cent per annum over a decade and more is one of the six basic principles of governance indicated in the National Common Minimum Programme of the Government. The Budget for 2004-05 has, among other things, laid emphasis on diversifying agricultural growth, accelerating the completion of irrigation projects,

investing in rural infrastructure, enhancing investment in industry, removing the inadequacies in infrastructure facilities and providing avenues of growth for the small scale industries.

Interest rate on farmers' loans

711. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra and Governments of other drought-hit States have approached the Central Government to secure Central intervention to have the interest due from farmers waived or to have the loans and interest due thereon clubbed and turned into long-term loans with period of moratorium to help out the drought-hit farmers;

(b) if so, the details of such requests made by the different State Governments; and

(c) Government's reaction and response thereto (including that of the NABARD and the RBI)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of request made by the State Government of Maharashtra are as under:

(i) NABARD to permit the concerned banks to merge the interest due with the principal amount & convert the entire amount into fresh loans.

(ii) The NABARD may be directed to undertake refinancing to all banks on the basis of the converted principal amounts as a special case.

(iii) Conversion of the short term loans to medium term loans of five years with a moratorium for the first two years and repayment within the next three years.

(c) In addition to the extant standing RBI guidelines to banks for providing relief to farmers in areas affected by natural calamities, the Government made an announcement on 18th June, 2004 envisaging the following relief measures:

(i) Debt restructuring/rescheduling and fresh loans for distressed farmers.